by the coal companies from out of Ceasl royalty payable by coal companies to State Government by mutual agreement.

Lack of infrastructure in coal companies

2315. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the major coal companies in the public sector Itack in infrastructure to transport coal to consumption centres resulting in mounting pithead stocks; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to plan a proper production distribution method?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Coal companies do not transport coal beyond despatch points. Coal is finally transported to the consumption centre by rail, merry go round, belt, rope or road etc. Except 'for railways, these systems could be captive or privately owned.

It is ,a fact that due to the mismatch between the production and the transport capacities in some of the coal production areas Coal stocks have been mounting up. In order to improve despatches and liquidate these stocks, coal companies are improving their coordination efforts with railways. To improve the off-take by road, two schemes have been formulated for selling coial under the Liberalised Sale Scheme (LSS) . LSS-I for small buyers requiring coal from one truck to 1000 tonnes while LSS-II is for major buyers requiring 10,000 tonnes and above. Coal India Limited have also recently launched a scheme for developing wholesale trade in coal. Under this scheme, the subsidy companies of Coal India Limited will appoint wholesale traders on the basis of (applications invited through open advertisements. It is stipulated that each dealer shall lift atleast 3000 tonnes of coal per month by road.

Production and import of coal

2316. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total production, demand, sale of coal in terms of quantity and value for the past five years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that in spite of significant increase in coal production, import of coal has been on the increase;

(c) if so, what are the details of quantity of coal imported during the last three years, year-wise and expenditure incurred thereon including permission granted for import of coal during the current year and likely expenses thereon;

(d) what steps are being taken/ proposed to achieve self sufficiency in coal and reduce coal imports during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(e) whether Government have assigned import of coal to agencies having no expertise in the line ignoring the claim of MMTC and Coal India Limited; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The figures of coal production, production value, despatches and sale value of Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited during the last five years are given in the attached Statement. (See below)